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To Interested Parties and Officials:

The Nevada Department of Agriculture is pleased to present a report entitled, "Nevada Grazing Statistics Report and Economic Analysis for Federal Lands in Nevada." This report represents a monumental effort to construct, compile, and analyze public land grazing trends in Nevada. Information used in this study was compiled and verified at the individual allotment level, making this study the most accurate and complete record of public land grazing trends in Nevada.

Many parties need to be recognized for their contribution to this project. First, the 1999 State Legislature recognized the importance and value of this information and appropriated the necessary funding for its completion. Secondly, the project contractor, the Nevada Association of Counties, and their prime subcontractor—Resource Concepts, Inc., working in conjunction with Gnomon, Inc. and University of Nevada Center for Economic Development, all need to be recognized for the dedication and professionalism devoted to this project. The involved federal agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation and National Park Service, also need to be recognized for the countless hours donated to this project in the compilation and verification of the necessary grazing records.

Finally, but by no means the least, there are several counties (Churchill, Douglas, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lincoln, Lyon, Nye, and White Pine), State Grazing Boards (N-2, N-3, N-4, and N-6), and the Nevada Cattlemen's Association who either contributed to this report or commissioned the three original regional studies which this statewide compilation expanded.

Without each of the fore-mentioned parties fulfilling their respective roles, this project would not have achieved the level of success it now enjoys.

In brief, this report, and the accompanying database, documents a loss of over 470,000 animal unit months (AUMs) in permitted public land grazing during the period from 1980 through 1999. This level of loss equates to a 16 percent reduction over the 19-year period, although this overall trend was not uniform between the involved federal agencies or across agency districts. This decline in public land grazing was estimated, over the same period, to have resulted in a loss of approximately \$11.6 and \$24.8 million to the livestock sector and the Nevada economy, respectively. To the extent possible, this report further categorizes the reasons or rationale used in the numerous agency decisions that resulted in the documented grazing trend.

The benefits and information that can be derived from the completed report are numerous and important. First, this project represents the most complete and accurate compilation of public land grazing trends that has been developed to date. This information will put to rest questions relating to the level and trend of public land grazing over the recent past, the factors driving these grazing trends, and the estimated economic effects that have resulted. Secondly, this report contains a scientifically sound approach that can be used to estimate the economic effects resulting from future grazing adjustments. Finally, this report, and the accompanying database, provides a method to assess cumulative effects resulting from past and future public land grazing decisions.

The information compiled in this project represents a powerful tool for understanding past and future effects resulting from Federal grazing programs on public lands located in Nevada. Armed with this information, state and local authorities and citizens can effectively dialog with the involved Federal agencies to bring about future grazing decisions that are more cognizant of the resulting effects on State and local governments, rural economies, the Nevada range livestock industry, and individual ranchers.

The Department of Agriculture is proud to be able to provide and share this information with you. If you have questions, or require further information, please contact me at the Carson City office. As the Department's manager for this important effort, I will be more than happy to answer questions relating to this project.

Don Henderson
Assistant Director
Project Manager